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LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter addressed to you by the Federal Foreign Minister, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, concerning the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I would appreciate it if the letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Detlev GRAF ZU RANTZAU
Ambassador

Annex

Letter dated 10 April 1992 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany addressed to the Secretary-General

The development of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina is of deep concern. There are indications for a configuration that could lead to lengthy armed conflicts similar to those in Croatia. Serbian extremists are trying to gain control of a large part of the territory of that Republic with the aim of secession. The capture of the town of Bijeljina is a blatant example. Units of the Yugoslav Federal Army seem to support the Serbian forces.

I welcome resolution 749 of the United Nations Security Council adopted on 7 April 1992 which provides for the earliest possible full deployment of UNPROFOR. It seems to me, however, that - given the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina - further steps are indicated. First of all it should be clearly stated that the Yugoslav Federal Army can stay and operate in Bosnia-erzegovina only with the consent of the government of that republic. This results from Bosnia-Herzegovina's status, recognized by the EC and other countries, as a sovereign State. The Security Council, too, should state that clearly and encourage close contacts between the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the leadership of the Yugoslav Federal Army. As a first step, a return of the units of the Yugoslav Federal Army to their barracks is urgently needed. At the same time the demand of President Izetbegovic for a stronger United Nations presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina should be taken up. The deployment, as envisaged, of military observers in the areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina bordering on Croatia is not sufficient in the present situation.

I ask you to examine these suggestions. Only if rapid action is taken now will some hope remain to prevent a further deterioration of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I am sending similar messages to close partners members of the Security Council.